United Nations E/AC.51/2000/L.6/Add.29

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
13 June 2000

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fortieth session
5-30 June 2000 (Part I)

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Amjad Hussain B. **Sial** (Pakistan)

Programme questions: evaluation (item 3 (d))

Strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives

1. At its 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 5 and 6 June 2000, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/55/63).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and the representatives of the Secretary-General responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. It was stated that the report should have been more analytical and qualitative in nature, and should have shown how evaluations were being utilized within the United Nations. Details of the evaluations mentioned, with specific examples of results and how the evaluations were carried out, including the impact of their results on programme design, delivery and policy directives, would have been useful. The sections on General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services and support services and the evaluations conducted within the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean were noted as examples of analytical discussions of evaluations which included the impact and contributions that they made.

4. The wide range of types of evaluation within various organizational entities was noted, reflecting the diversity of the organizations and activities themselves.

00-47881 (E) 150600

5. It was also observed that future evaluation reports should show the impact of budget restrictions on reform measures on programme design, delivery and policy directives, and should contain proposals for improving evaluation and its role in the integrated management cycle conceived in the programme planning regulations and rules. In this regard, it was noted that the role of the programme performance report should not be duplicated.

6. It was stated that, in the conclusion of the report, the observation that evaluations had improved significantly compared to that described two years ago was incorrect; the objective of evaluation as stated in article VII, regulation 7.1, of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8) was not being fulfilled by the current system of evaluation in the United Nations. The solution was found to be in regulation 7.3 of these regulations and rules, in which it was suggested that external evaluations could be conducted by bodies such as the Joint Inspection Unit, or by other external independent bodies devoted to evaluation.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee emphasized that the role of evaluation is becoming increasingly important.

8. The Committee recommended that future reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the subject should be more analytical, evaluate whether the evaluation function was being effectively carried out in the Secretariat and consider how it might be improved, in particular in order to strengthen the role of evaluation in programme design, delivery and policy directives, in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

9. The Committee stressed the need for the internal evaluation system to benefit from the work done by the existing external evaluation mechanisms in order to allow for more effective, independent and critical evaluation.

10. The Committee welcomed the training activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on evaluation and encouraged their future development.

11. The Committee decided that:

(a) The topics for in-depth evaluation in 2001 would be sustainable development and population;

(b) The topics for in-depth evaluation in 2002 would be General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs and Economic and Social Council support and coordination and Legal Affairs.

12. The Committee emphasized that the evaluation reports should be submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994 and 54/244 of 23 December 1999.